

# GEOGRAPHIC WEB BROWSER AND ICONIC HYPERLINK CARTOGRAPHY

## *Abstract*

The present invention relates to a system and method for searching,  
5 accessing, retrieving, representing and browsing geographic or location related  
information from the Web (i.e.: HTML documents that describe physical places).  
More particularly, the present invention relates to a system and method for  
automatically searching, retrieving, representing and browsing from the Web a  
geographic distribution of places where selectable types of resources are located or  
10 certain types of services provided (hospitals, bus terminals, historical places,  
oil-posts, restaurants, hotels, etc ....). These places are located inside regions of  
different sizes around any reference point of the world. The invention enables a user  
to select any one of the automatically mapped locations and to browse the  
information retrieved from the World Wide Web for this location, without any resort to  
15 services of specialized geographic information systems or geographic information  
providers.

The system according to the present invention comprises means for tagging  
each document accessible through the Web with the cartographic coordinates  
(longitude, latitude and optionally altitude) of the physical location referenced in the  
20 document and, optionally, with one or a plurality of attributes of this physical  
location. The invention also comprises a method for searching and retrieving from  
the Web the tagged documents from a computer system by means of queries  
specifying:

- the cartographic coordinates (longitude and latitude) of a reference location  
25 anywhere in the world,
- the size of the geographic area to search around this reference location, and/or
- one or several attributes of the locations to search (location type key words)  
inside that geographic area.

Figure 5